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[REDACTED]

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Colby

SUBJECT : Status Report on Big Systems Planning Paper

Bill:

1. A few weeks ago you will recall you met with Bronson Tweedy and me and discussed the big systems planning paper which I had forwarded to Colonel White, and at his request, to the Deputies. We agreed at that time that it would be useful if you were provided with a simple statement of the things that needed to be done in which you might have an active or catalytic role to play.

2. Following this, I spent a morning with OSP, several hours with COMIREX, other people involved in this project and with each of the Deputy Directors. The tasks fall into relatively few but complex groupings. They include development of an information data base and its maintenance; the alignment of prime responsibilities across the Community; the tie-together of analysis and dissemination centers and the facilities involved, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] NPIC space and hardware needs; prospects for developing software for interfacing other satellite reconnaissance systems, including the communications point-to-point and backup systems; etc. Related considerations include internal security or product and its dissemination, conveying systems, e.g., phones, pneumatic tubes, automatic data processing, etc. Not all of these things relate strictly [REDACTED] can't really be considered separate from them.

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3. My examination of the [REDACTED] planning leaves me fairly satisfied that the major tasks, although not all solved, have been identified and are either under study or are well in hand. The big systems paper prompted a number of discussions; the budgetary issues, including those supporting [REDACTED] systems and the R&D money and NPIC building, proved a further opportunity to assemble the principals and articulate the issues. Further, [REDACTED] is stepping up the frequency of regular sessions with all interested parties in the Agency to stay

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Excluded from automatic
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25X1 informed, check progress, identify problems and stimulate special studies directed toward exploitation of results. I have asked [] to attend these recent sessions; in the earlier starting efforts we had a representative in []

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25X1 4. There are, of course, unsolved problems. In the longer run, the question of the Community involvement must be introduced. But as indicated the [] sessions, the role the DDI now is playing, and the foresighted planning of the program manager, Carl Duckett, demonstrate that the issues are well in hand. In sum, I found nothing you need to focus on as a problem. In time, as Bronson gets shaken down in his new incarnation, he obviously will want to tie into these matters and introduce the Community, particularly on the information side. The timing of this is, however, some months away and perhaps as many as 15.

25X1 5. Discussions have been held with the OMB regarding the business of developing a new overall Community information data communication system and you were present recently during some discussion of that subject with [] and company. Their inclination, and mine, is to go slow on implementation and to seriously study the desired goal.

25X1 6. In brief, I think the [] issues raised at the meeting with Tweedy have now settled somewhat and, although the Community-wide involvement [] is complex and not clear yet, the normal Agency issues are fairly well in hand, with the proper institutional assignments. I see no resources problems for the present other than those already raised in our budget discussions.

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[]

John M. Clarke
Director of Planning,
Programming, and Budgeting

JMC/hg

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